

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

In the news today.

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HAMNET MEETING.

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday pre-ceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL and the news in detail follows

SARL MEMBERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT.

Thank you to all those radio amateurs who have paid their SARL subscriptions. Without your support the league could not exist.

With the funds raised through membership subscriptions, the SARL provides a variety of services to its members as well as funding of regular representation of Amateur Radio with the authorities.

Alone we cannot achieve much but by standing together we can move mountains. Half year fees are now payable.

RAE SYLLABUS

Candidates for the forthcoming Radio Amateur's Examination are advised that in terms of the new Radio Regulations, the examination will be based on the CEPT Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC) syllabus, which is available from the SARL web site. The recently released RAE training

manual, which is available as a free download from the SARL web site, covers most of the technical aspects of the HAREC syllabus. Whatever training manual you choose to use, please do not rely on the contents of the manual or of past examination papers as a guide to the contents of the forthcoming examination, but ensure that you are acquainted with the published HAREC syllabus.

The rules and regulations paper will be based on the new Radio Regulations as promulgated in Government Gazette No. 27 252 of 4 February 2005, which is also available for download from the SARL web site, www.sarl.org.za.

NEXT PRESIDENT'S NET AND INTECNET ON 27 FEBRUARY The next President's Net and Intecnet will be on the air on 27 February 2005. The President's net starts at 19:00 CAT and will be followed by the Intecnet at 20:00.

The guest speaker on the Intecnet is Chris Burger who will discuss Electronic QSLing, a subject that should be of great interest, particular to ZR licensees, as they have just come onto HF and have to consider which QSLing route to take.

Clubs wishing to link their local repeater to the net should send an email to armi@sarl.org.za with the following details: telephone number to be linked to the conference bridge and details of the repeater such as coverage area and frequency.

SARL VHF/UHF COMPETITION ONE WEEK EARLIER

Because of the Human Rights long weekend, the contest committee has decided to run the first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Contest a week earlier. The contest will now be run from 11 to 13 March 2005. More details to follow.

ECHOLINK NOW LEGAL

With the minister's announcement on Voice over the Internet Protocol, Echolink, and other systems using VoIP are now legal. While many amateurs have been using Echolink there was always doubt about its legality in terms of the telecommunications act. That doubt was removed on 1 February 2005.

HAMNET MEETING.

After the meeting held on the 23rd of October 2004, it was decided to have more regular meetings to discuss items that may be of interest or value to Hamnet members.

A meeting will be held on Saturday the 26th of February at the NARC at Radiokop and will start at 14:00.

This meeting is aimed specifically at speakers from the medical fraternity who will give us a presentation on their activities and how Amateur Radio Emergency could fit into their environment.

We have two guest speakers at this stage but are hoping for a third. The agenda will be made available on the SARL Website once all the speakers have been finalised.

We look forward to your attendance.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE IN CAPE TOWN

The South African Radio League and the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre, launched a youth development initiative in Cape Town this week. 16 pupils and a teacher from the Cape Academy for Maths and Science, which serves previously disadvantaged communities in Cape Town, are receiving free tuition and training materials for the RAE. They will also be doing some practical electronics construction using one of the SUNSTEP kits. It is hoped that once the students have passed the RAE in May, and obtained licences, that it will be possible to raise funds to establish an amateur radio station at the school.

The initiative was organised by the SARL secretary Henry Chamberlain, ZS1AAZ, and Education Councilor Andrew Roos, ZS1AN, with the support of the Chairman and committee of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre.

PAPERS FOR AMSATCON 2005

The closing date for submission of proposals for papers to be presented at the SA AMSAT Conference on 14 May is end of February. Some interesting papers have already been received. Visit the SA AMSAT website for more details: www.amsatsa.org.za. Delegate registration for the conference will start in March.

UPGRADING FROM ZR TO ZS WILL TAKE A LITTLE TIME

While the SARL has appointed a number of Assessors some additional regulatory issues need to be attended to by the authorities before the Assessors can start their work. This means that applications for upgrading will take a little longer. The amended regulations require the appointment of the national body, a process that is currently being attended to by the ministry.

Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, explained that this process could only begin once the amendments to the regulations were gazetted. "The SARL is working closely with the authorities to get this last piece of regulatory action in place. As soon as the process has been completed details will be published on www.sarl.org.za and announced on SARL news".

"Judging from the increased HF activity I believe that ZR licensees are enjoying their new privileges", Graham Hartlett said. "We are all looking forward to the PEARS welcome to HF activity this weekend."

PROPAGATION REPORT

During the past week there was quite a lot more activity on the sun than over the past few weeks. There were also a number of good openings towards Europe, even as late as 21:00 in the evening. The sunspot number is again in a downward

phase and I doubt if this condition will continue. The sunspot number on Thursday was 60,8 compared to last week's 63 and it seems that it will decrease in the coming week. It would seem that the 27 day peaks are back again which should make predictions much easier. On 15 February the sunspot number reached an unbelievable 115 but, of course, only for a very short period. I believe that the 15 and even the 20 m bands were open at that time. There is at present much activity on the sun's surface but good corona openings are still absent. DX fans can leave their sets on with impunity, reports Kobus ZS6KOB.

DIARY OF EVENTS

PEARS "Welcome to HF" Party ends today at 12:00 CAT; 26 February - HAM-NET meeting at NARC; 28 February - Submit proposals for papers for AMSATCON2005; 31 March - closing date for final papers for AMSATCOM 2005; closing date for part 1 of the 2005 Construction Competition; 08 April - SARL Awards Dinner; 09 April - SARL AGM; 14 May - AMSATCON2005. 31 May - closing date for part 2 of the 2005 Construction Competition.

The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 700, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentechn sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX